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**National Volunteer Week: Promoting Service and Civic Engagement**

During his 2001 Inaugural speech, President George W. Bush enjoined all Americans to become active citizens by saying, “What you do is as important as anything government does. I ask you to seek common good beyond your comfort, to defend needed reforms against easy attack; to serve your nation beginning with your neighbor. I ask you to be citizens, not spectators; citizens not subjects; responsible citizens building communities of service and a nation of character...”

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives hosted the fourth Compassion in Action Roundtable, entitled “The President’s Compassion Agenda: Promoting Service and Civic Engagement,” examining volunteerism and the contributions of the non-profit sector in America. The Roundtable featured David Eisner, CEO and Stephen Goldsmith,

Chairman of the Board of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), an intriguing panel discussion with nonprofit leaders followed by closing remarks offered by Diana Aviv, the CEO of Independent Sector.



Director Hein stressed the importance of civic leaders gaining a clearer understanding of the non-profit sector’s strength and potential, and the faith community’s role in leveraging volunteerism as it works to strengthen communities. Of great significance is the non-profit sector’s assets equal approximately \$1.7 billion, which would make it the 6<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and an asset worth understanding and harnessing.

**The Corporation for National and Community Service: Leading Trends in Volunteerism**

The Corporation for National and Community Service’s CEO, David Eisner, led the discussion with an in-depth view of the progress that has been made in building a culture of service and civic participation in America, along with highlighting some of the key challenges to keeping citizens civically engaged. “Service can no longer be something that is nice to do... it is critical to solving our nation’s most pressing



*In 2006, 61.2 million Americans volunteered, serving 8.1 billion hours – worth \$150 billion*

challenges.” More sectors of society are starting to understand this important trend towards greater civic engagement. State governments, companies and foundations are investing in it as they realize that civic engagement leads to more people voting, knowing their neighbors, and engaging in local affairs.

CNCS's newly released study, *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life*, highlights volunteer trends since 2002. In 2006, 61.2 million Americans volunteered, serving 8.1 billion hours – worth \$150 billion dollars. But the 61 million is a decrease from the 65 million who volunteered in 2005. One out of 3 volunteers who served in 2005 dropped out in

2006, creating cause for concern. The study also found that higher state volunteer rates may lead to better health for its residents, longer life, higher life satisfaction, lower rates of depression and greater physical and mental well-being. “Armed with this knowledge, we can’t afford to lose any volunteers,” according to Eisner.

## Volunteering Makes Healthy Communities

CNCS Chairman Stephen Goldsmith reinforced the critical importance of engaging citizens and faith-based and community organizations in his remarks to the Roundtable.



Government, business, or philanthropy alone cannot be expected to solve meaningful problems without an active citizenry. To do so, it is important to keep people volunteering year to year, and therefore it is important for governments, faith-based and community organizations and the nonprofit sector to know what motivates people to become more civically engaged.

“Volunteering leads to healthy communities and a vibrant civic society,” according to Goldsmith. “Both of these are crucial to solving our nation’s most pressing challenges. But volunteering and civic engagement will not grow unless we properly manage them and invest in them.”

Drawing on his experience as the former mayor of Indianapolis, Chairman Goldsmith highlighted

the Front Porch Alliance, a project he created to engage grassroots, faith- and community based groups and to help government tackle tough problems. By connecting these groups in Indianapolis, government was able to be an effective coordinator of services, rather than the sole giver of them. “For too long faith-based and community groups have not been part of the national solution to crucial issues like poverty, crime, illiteracy, educational achievement gaps, caring for the elderly and improving the lives of disadvantaged youth,” Goldsmith noted. “By effectively investing in communities and engaging more Americans in service we build stronger communities that can help those in need and strengthen the patterns of local community service that are the foundation of our democracy.”

CNCS manages almost \$900 million in Federal programs to foster civic engagement. Through SeniorCorps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, national service participants recruited, trained, and managed 1.8 million community volunteers last year alone. For more information and a copy of the *Volunteering in America* report, visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

## Answering the President's Call to Service: A Panel Conversation

“Answering the President's Call to Service,” the Roundtable’s panel, featured three leaders in the field of volunteerism and was moderated by Desiree T. Sayle, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps. Panelists included: Michelle Nunn, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Hands on Network; Mark Sloan, Director of Harris County Citizen Corps;



and Laurie Beshore, Pastor of Global Outreach and Lighthouse Ministries at Mariner’s Church. Each of the panelists introduced their organization’s model of volunteerism, sharing the way their organization both recruited, retained volunteers and then discussed the Corporation for

National and Community Service's "Volunteering in America: 2007 State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life" report which reveals that one-third of volunteers do not continue serving the following year. To address this alarming volunteer retention trend, each panelist identified proven volunteer

management strategies. Further, each panelist engaged in a lively dialogue with the audience, encouraged by moderator Sayle, identifying ways to strengthen infrastructure of the nonprofit sector.

## Answering the Call to Service: Cabinet Officials Volunteer

Taking a stand for volunteers, Bush Administration officials demonstrated their commitment to service. During National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2007, Cabinet Secretaries and many other

administration officials volunteered their time serving their neighbors and honoring volunteers. Below is a list of over fifty such events.

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### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: ANSWERING THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, April 15, 2007 | Saturday, April 21, 2007

#### **Monday, April 16, 2007**

SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY will host the agency's first Annual Volunteer Fair. Secretary Chertoff will deliver kick-off remarks.

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (EDT)

1201 New York Avenue, NW | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE will serve meals at SOME (So Others Might Eat), an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of Washington, DC.

10:45 AM – 11:45AM (EDT)

71 O Street, NW | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS will participate in the Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony and honor seven outstanding volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

1:00 PM to 1:45 PM (EDT)

Baltimore VA Medical Center | Baltimore, MD

OPEN PRESS

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION recognizes a U.S. Department of Education employee who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteer service with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

10:00 AM (EDT)

U.S. Department of Education | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR will honor an outstanding U.S. Agency for International Development employee with the President's Volunteer Service Award at the agency's annual awards program.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (EDT)

Ronald Reagan Building | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CEO will release a new study, "Volunteering in America: 2007 State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life". CEO Eisner will share the report's findings at the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and USA Freedom Corps' Compassion in Action Roundtable.

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM (EDT)

Eisenhower Executive Office Building | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR will honor eight volunteers who serve as finalist judges for the Foundation, judging the innovative projects submitted by middle school students from around the country for the Christopher Columbus Awards.

10:30 AM (EDT)

National Science Foundation | Arlington, VA

PHOTO RELEASE

U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTIONS BOARD CHAIRMAN will volunteer with Food & Friends, preparing and packaging food for individuals with life-challenging illnesses.

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EDT)

219 Riggs Road, NE | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER will honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

9:00 AM (EDT)

Armed Forces Retirement Home | Washington, DC

CLOSED

COMMISSIONER OF THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION will conduct a voluntary toiletry drive from April 16-20 to provide necessary items for The Drop-in Center for the Unsheltered Homeless in Prince William County.

Federal Maritime Commission | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

U.S. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS DIRECTOR will conduct a voluntary book drive from April 16-20 in conjunction with the Heart of America Foundation.

1201 New York Ave, NW | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

**Tuesday, April 17, 2007**

SECRETARY OF ENERGY will volunteer as a guest teacher for a 4th grade class at the Amidon Elementary School in Washington, DC. The Department of Energy's headquarters facility has a long history of volunteer support for Amidon through reading programs and other volunteer activities.

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (EDT)

Amidon Elementary School | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR will award an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Utah Energy Summit.

12:15 PM (MDT)

Little America Hotel | Salt Lake City, Utah

CLOSED PRESS

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR will serve meals at SOME (So Others Might Eat), an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of Washington, DC.

7:00 AM to 9:00 AM (EDT)

71 O Street, NW | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE will honor outstanding Department of Commerce employees and community volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Commerce Child Development Center.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EDT)

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONER will honor 500 Social Security Administration volunteers during the Social Security Administration Volunteer Appreciation Day.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (EDT)

Social Security Administration Headquarters | Baltimore, MD

CLOSED PRESS

COURT SERVICES & OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY DIRECTOR will volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity build.

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (EDT)

54<sup>th</sup> and Clay Street, NE | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION DEPUTY DIRECTOR will meet with and thank National Science Foundation employees who are active volunteers at local middle and high schools who share their skills and experience to increase students' interest in science and technology.

4:30 PM (EDT)

National Science Foundation Headquarters | Arlington, VA

CLOSED PRESS

**Wednesday, April 18, 2007**

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION participates in the Gulf Coast Reading Initiative, which involves the distribution of 500,000 new books to communities across the five Gulf States most affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Secretary will join First Book and local officials at Gulfview-Charles B. Murphy Elementary School to highlight the importance of reading and a continued commitment to the people of the Gulf Coast.

12:45 PM (CDT)

Gulfview-Charles B. Murphy Elementary School | Kiln, MS

OPEN PRESS

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR will volunteer with Take Pride in America in the annual Capital River Relief Cleanup.

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EDT)

Belle Haven Marina | Alexandria, VA

OPEN PRESS

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION will honor outstanding volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

6:00 PM (CDT)

The University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

PHOTO RELEASE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNDERSECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT will kick-off the Department of State Volunteer Service Fair and honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (EDT)

U.S. Department of State | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR delivers remarks highlighting volunteerism and environmental responsibility at the City of Chicago Earth Day Event.

12:15 PM (CDT)

Daley Plaza | Chicago, IL

OPEN PRESS

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONER will volunteer and sort food items at the Maryland Food Bank.

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)

2200 Halethorpe Farms Road | Baltimore, MD

PHOTO RELEASE

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION COMMISSIONER will coordinate a food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank and will honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

10:00 AM (EDT)

Commodity Futures Trading Commission Headquarters | Washington DC

PHOTO RELEASE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN will honor 22 employees who demonstrated outstanding commitment to volunteer service with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (EDT)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER will visit with the United Neighborhood Coalition and share volunteer opportunities with the Coalition at the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (EDT)

Armed Forces Retirement Home | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTIONS BOARD CHAIRMAN will honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award during the U.S. Merit Systems Protections Board Legal Conference.

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM (EDT)

Wyndham Hotel | Orlando, FL

OPEN PRESS

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION DEPUTY CEO will honor two Millennium Challenge Corporation employees with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

10:00 AM (EDT)

Millennium Challenge Corporation Headquarters | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

**Thursday, April 19, 2007**

SECRETARY OF LABOR will participate in a USO volunteer event where she will hand out care packages to service members departing for Iraq. Following distribution of packages, the Secretary will honor an outstanding USO volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

1:45 PM (EDT)

USO Facilities at BWI Airport | Baltimore, MD

OPEN PRESS

SECRETARY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES will honor two U.S. Health and Human Services employees with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

11:30 AM (EDT)

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR will honor an outstanding local volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

10:30 AM (EDT)

U.S. Department of the Interior | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES will honor an outstanding financial literacy volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

11:30 AM (EDT)

U.S. Department of Treasury | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES will honor outstanding volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

10:00 AM (EDT)

U.S. General Services Administration | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES will participate in an environmental stewardship event in Rawlins Park.

11:00 AM (EDT)

18<sup>th</sup> and E Street, NW | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS CHAIRMAN will honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

2:00 PM (EDT)

Old Post Office Pavilion | Washington, DC

CLOSED PRESS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MILITARY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY POLICY will honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

6:00 PM (EDT)

Fort Meade | Fort Meade, MD

PHOTO RELEASE

**Friday, April 20, 2007**

ATTORNEY GENERAL will honor an outstanding local volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM (EDT)

U.S. Department of Justice | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT will serve meals at SOME (So Others Might Eat), an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of Washington, DC.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (EDT)

71 O Street, NW | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE will volunteer at the Capital Area Food Bank and honor an outstanding Food Bank volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EDT)

645 Taylor Street, NE | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR delivers remarks on environmental stewardship at the Presidential Environmental Youth Awards ceremony.

1:30 PM (EDT)

Ariel Rios North Building | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR will serve meals at SOME (So Others Might Eat), an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of Washington, DC.

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (EDT)

71 O Street, NW | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

DIRECTOR OF USA FREEDOM CORPS will volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity build.

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)

54<sup>th</sup> and Clay Street, NE | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

DIRECTOR OF USA FREEDOM CORPS will deliver remarks at the National & Global Youth Service Day Opening Ceremony.

4:00 PM (EDT)

King Greenleaf Recreation Center | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES will volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity build.

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (EDT)

54<sup>th</sup> and Clay Street, NE | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS

ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES will volunteer in a beautification project at Hains Point in East Potomac Park.

12:00 PM (EDT)



East Potomac Park | Washington, DC  
OPEN PRESS

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD CHAIRMAN will participate in a beautification project at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and will present several of the President's Volunteer Service Awards.

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (EDT)

Walter Reed Army Medical Center | Bethesda, MD

PHOTO RELEASE

UNITED STATES AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION PRESIDENT will volunteer with McLean Bible Church's Access Ministry, Break Out.

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EDT)

McLean Bible Church | Vienna, VA

PHOTO RELEASE

**Saturday, April 21, 2007**

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS will renovate a home as part of the annual "Rebuilding Together: Christmas in April."

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM (EDT)

5402 James Place, NE | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES CHAIRMAN will honor an outstanding volunteer with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (MDT)

El Paso Museum of Art | El Paso, TX

OPEN PRESS

U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CHIEF OF STAFF will participate in a beautification project at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (EDT)

Theodore Roosevelt High School | Washington, DC

PHOTO RELEASE

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD CHAIRMAN will participate in the StreetWise Partners' Mock Interview Day. StreetWise Partners builds mentoring relationships between low-income individuals and volunteer business professionals to develop workplace skills and employment networks as the bridge to a successful career.

10:30 AM to 2:00 PM (EDT)

901 F Street, NW | Washington, DC

OPEN PRESS